

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

## FOURTH DESPATCH OF MAJOR DOWNING.

[PRIVATE.]

To James K. Polk, President of the United States, and nearly half of Mexico certain, with a pretty tolerable fair chance yet for the whole.

CITY OF MEXICO, DOUBTFUL TERRITORY, February 14, 1818.

DEAR COLONEL: If any body asks you that impudent question again, "What are we fighting for?" tell him he's a goose, and don't know what he's talking about, for we ain't fighting at all; we've got peace now; got an armistice, they call it; so there's no sense at all in their putting that question to you any more. We've got the opposition fairly on the hip upon that question, if no other; fairly gagged 'em; they can't say to you any longer now, "What are we fighting for?" This is some consolation for the shabby trick Trist has served us. That fellow has made a bargain with the Mexicans to stop the war, in spite of the orders you sent to him to come right home and let things alone. I felt uneasy about it when I see him hanging about here so long after he got his orders to come home, and I said to him, once or twice, "Mr. Trist, what's the reason you don't go off home and mind the President? This unbecoming boldness of yours is shameful."

"Why, Major," says he, "he that does his master's will, does right, whether he goes according to orders or not. The President sent me out here to make peace, and it's a wonder to me if I don't fix it yet, somehow or other, before I've done with it." And then he put his finger to the side of his nose and gave me a sassy look, as much as to say, "Major Downing, you better not try to be looking into diplomatic things that you don't understand."

Says I, "Mr. Trist, I'm astonished at you; I thought you was a man of more judgment, and looked deeper into things. Don't you see what advantage it gives the President to let things now stand just as they be? He's offered peace to the Mexicans, and they have refused it. Therefore, the opposition at home can't cry out against him any more if he goes ahead with the war. He's set their mouths up at that score. He's made the war popular, and can go into the Presidential campaign now with a good chance of being elected another term. And now if you go to dabble in the business any more, I'm sure you'll do mischief. As things now stand, peace is the last thing in the world that the President wants. You've done your errand here and got your answer, and it's turned out just right; we can go on with our annex all Mexico now, without such an everlasting growl among the opposition at home, for we've offered the Mexicans peace, and they wouldn't take it. So you've nothing to do now but to be off home, for the war is just in the right shape as it is."

Well now, after all this plain advice—I felt it my duty to be plain with him—still I kept hanging about here, day after day and week after week, and the first I knew we was took all back by being told that Mr. Trist had made a treaty and General Scott was to order an armistice. I could hardly believe my ears at first. I posted right off to General Scott to know what it all meant.

"General," says I, "are you going to order an armistice?"

"Yes, Major Downing," says he: "Mr. Trist and the Mexican Commissioners have signed the preliminaries of a treaty, so of course we shall have an armistice."

"Well now, General," says I, "I don't think the President will thank you for that."

"Can't help that," says he, "I must obey the orders of the Government, thanks or no thanks. And when Mr. Trist was sent out here to make a treaty, I was directed, whenever the plan of a treaty should be signed on both sides, to order an armistice, and wait for the two Governments to ratify the treaty. Well, Mr. Trist and the Mexican Commissioners have at last fixed up some kind of a bargain and signed it, and of course according to my orders we have nothing to do but to stand still and wait for the two Governments to clinch the nail."

"But," says I, "General, you know Mr. Trist has no right to make a treaty any more than I have, for the President has ordered him to come home; and if he has made a treaty, it's no better than a piece of blank paper, and you should mind it."

"Don't know any thing about them matters," says he, "I can't go behind the curtain to inquire what little manoeuvres are going on between the President and his Commissioner. Mr. Trist came out here with his regular commission to make a treaty. He has brought me a treaty, signed by himself and the Mexican Commissioners; and my orders are to cease hostilities. Of course we can do nothing else but halt and stack our arms."

"Well," says I, "General it ain't right; it's bad business; it'll break up this grand annex plan that was just going on so nice that we might get a good through with it in a year or two more; and then it will bother the President most to death about his election for the second term. That treaty must be stopped; it mustn't be sent home; and I'll go right and see Mr. Trist about it."

So off I went and hunted up Mr. Trist, and had a talk with him. Says I, "Trist, how's this? They tell me you've been making a treaty with these Mexicans."

"Shouldn't wonder if I had," says he: "that's just what I come out here for."

"Well, I must say, sir," says I, "I think this is a pretty piece of business. How do you dare to do such a thing? You know the President has ordered you home."

"Yes," says he, "and I mean to go home as soon as I get through the job he sent me to do."

"Well now," says I, "Trist, I claim to know what the President is about, and what he wants, and I'm his confidential friend and private confidant; and I shall take the liberty to interfere in this business. This high-handed doing of yours must be nipped off in the bud. What sort of a bargain have you been making? Jest let me look at the treaty."

"Can't do it," says he, "it's half way to Vera Cruz by this time; I sent it off yesterday."

"Blood and thunder!" says I, "then you have knocked the whole business in the head, sure enough. You've committed an outrageous crime, sir, and a great shame; and don't you know, sir, that great crimes deserve great punishments? I don't know what Col. Polk will do; but I know what my friend old Hickory would do if he was alive; he would hang you right up to the first tree he could come at."

"What, hang me for doing just what I was sent here to do?" says he. "For I've made just such a bargain as the President told me to make; only a little better one."

"That's nothing here nor there," says I, "you know circumstances alters cases. And you know well enough, or you ought to have sense enough to know, that, as things now stand, the President don't want a treaty. Now, says I, Mr. Trist, answer me one plain question: Do you think you have any right at all to make a treaty after the President has ordered you home?"

"Well," says he, "I think circumstances alters cases too; and when the President ordered me home, I suppose he thought I couldn't get through the job he sent me to do. But I thought I could, and so I kept trying, and I've got through with it at last, and done the business all up according to my first orders; and I don't see why the President shouldn't be well satisfied."

"Well," says I, "what's the terms of the bargain? What have you agreed upon?"

"Why," says he, "we have the whole of Texas clear to the Rio Grande; we have all of New Mexico, and all of Upper California. And we pay the Mexicans fifteen millions of dollars, and pay our own citizens five millions that the Mexicans owed them. And we stop firing, draw our charges from the guns that are loaded, and go home."

"Well, now," says I, "Trist, don't you think you are a pretty fellow to make such a bargain as that at this time of day? The President will be mortified to death about it. Here we've been fighting near about two years to make the Mexicans pay over five millions of dollars they owed our people, and now you've agreed that we shall put our hands in our own pockets and pay it ourselves. The whole plan of the war has been carried on by the President upon the highest principles to go straight ahead and 'conquer a peace, man-fashion; and now you've agreed to back out of the scrape, and buy a peace, and pay the money for it. You know very well the President has declared, time and again, that the war should go on till we got indemnity for the past and security for the future—their own words—and now you've agreed to settle up without getting one jot of either. For the past, we are at least a hundred millions of dollars out of pocket, besides losing ten or fifteen thousand men. As for the men, I s'pose you may say we can offset them against the Mexicans we have killed, and as we have killed more than they have, may be it foots up a little in our favor, and that's the only advantage you've secured. As for the hundred millions of dollars, we don't get a penny of it back. So all the indemnity you get for the past is a few thousand dead Mexicans—that is, as many as remains after subtracting what they've killed of us from what we've killed of them. But the cap-sheaf of your bargain is the 'security for the future.' The cities and towns and castles that we have fit so hard to take, and have got our men into, and all so well secured, you now agree to give 'em all right up again to the enemy, and march our men off home with their fingers in their mouths; and that's our security for the future. As for the fifteen millions of dollars you agree to pay for New Mexico and California, you might just as well throw the money into the sea, for they was ours afore; they was already conquered and annexed, and was as much ours as if we had paid the money for 'em."

Here I turned on my heel and left him, for I was so disgusted at the conduct of the fellow that I wouldn't have any more talk with him. And now, my dear Colonel, there is nothing for us to do but to look this business right in the face and make the best we can of it. If there was any way to keep the thing out of sight, it would be best for you to throw the treaty into the fire as soon as you get it, and send word on to General Scott to go ahead again. But that is impossible; it will be spread all over the country and known to every body. And I'm convinced it will be the best way for you to turn right about, make out to be glad of what you can't be helped, and accept the treaty. The nominations for President is close at hand, and you must get ready to go into the election for your second term on what you've got, and make the best show you can with it. If you should reject the treaty, the opposition would get the advantage of you again; they would then cry out that the Mexicans had asked for peace and you had refused it; and there would be no end to their growling about this oppressive war of invasion. But if you accept the treaty, it puts an end to their grumbling about the war."

To pacify our friends that are very eager for the whole of Mexico, you must tell 'em to look out and see how much we have already got; keep telling of 'em that half a loaf is better than no bread; tell 'em to keep quiet till after your next election is over, and may be you'll contrive some plan to be cutting into 'em later. Keep Mr. Richie blowing the organ, all weather, to the tune of half of Mexico for a song. Tell the whole country, and brazen it out to every body, that you've made a great bargain, a capital bargain, much better than Jefferson made when he bought Louisiana for fifteen millions of dollars; tell 'em for the same sum of money you have got a great deal more land, and more men on it. I'm satisfied this is the best ground to take; we must go for the treaty, and, bitter pill as it is, we must swallow it as though we loved it. I s'pose it will have to go before the Senate, as the constitution now stands, (the constitution is very defective on that point, and ought to be mended, for it's dangerous trusting important matters to the Senate) but you must drive your friends all up to vote for it; don't let it fail on no account; don't let 'em go to finger it over and putting in amendments that will make the Mexicans so mad that they will kick it all over again. For that would put things into such a hurly-burly I'm afraid you would lose your election."

Ratify the treaty, and then gather up all the glory that's been made out of this war, twist it into a sort of good glory wreath round your head, and march with a bold step and a stiff upper lip right into the Presidential campaign, and I shouldn't wonder if you beat the whole bunch of all your enemies and all your friends. And if you went into your second term on the strength of half of Mexico, it would be a pretty good sign that you might go into a third term on the strength of the whole of it."

I remain your faithful friend,

MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

BUENOS AYRES.

Gov. Rosas, in his message to the Legislature of Buenos Ayres, announces his harmony with all friendly Powers, and states that his Government has difficulties with only eight different States, including Paraguay! There is a deficit in the treasury of \$31,294,346 for the year 1848. The total circulation of paper money is \$100,000,000, without counting the \$27,000,000 which are to be issued this year. A Montevideo paper of January the 28th says:

"The Prasin tragedy has been re-enacted in Montevideo. A young officer, of Spanish origin, about twenty-nine years of age, was wounded at the commencement of the siege and taken to the City Hospital. One of the patriotic ladies who devoted themselves to the painful service of tending the wounded, became enamored of this young man and espoused him. She was about sixty years of age, and possessed a fortune estimated at 150,000 francs. In a short time after their marriage discord arose between them, and finally the lady was found dead in her bed. She was found in a perfectly natural position, with the head enveloped in a large bonnet. The physician who first entered the chamber of the deceased at first imagined that she had died of apoplexy; but, having removed the bonnet, he perceived traces of blood. This awakened suspicion, and further examination soon rendered it certain that she had been shot through the head with a pistol. The ball extracted was about the size of a pea. All the proofs against the officer are of a dark and terrible nature. He is now in prison, awaiting his trial."

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ONE SEPARATOR.—The newly-invented machine used at the New York Clinton prison, invented by Ransom Cook, Esq. for picking out the particles of iron from the crushed masses of stone, is a curiosity. The ore, spread in a sheet, is moving in one direction, while the electro-magnets, without charge, are quietly moving in an opposite one. On sight of the ore these hitherto passive bits of iron become instantly electrified, when the ore and magnets embrace each other with all the ardor of long absent lovers. Thus united they move a short distance together, when the magnets, as if seized with a new caprice, suddenly lose their attraction and drop the too confiding ore, which then, like a disappointed lover, plunges into the stream, where its sorrows are drowned.

A VETERAN DEAD.—The Baton Rouge Gazette announces the decease of Major Severin Vail, a veteran of '74 and '15, aged 72 years. Major Vail was a captain during the late war with Great Britain in the 7th regiment of U. S. Infantry, and was present at the battles of the 23d December, 1814, and 8th of January, 1815, where he gallantly did his duty. He died at his residence in East Baton Rouge on the 9th instant.

The Depot of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, at Raleigh, (N. C.) was destroyed by fire on Saturday last. Several locomotives, and among them a new one, were also destroyed.

## FROM OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 10, 1848.

There have been very stormy debates in the French Chamber of Deputies lately, and the charges and recriminations brought forward by the contending parties have not raised the characters of those who have for some time past wielded the energies of that great nation, either as statesmen or as men. M. THIERS concluded a speech on the 2d instant with the following very striking passage: "Providence, which has so many times protected France, will continue, I trust, to ward off from us until better times all this fatal crisis; but, in fine, if any misfortune should produce a general change, just see where you would be. You have created between France and England a dangerous hostility; you have planted in Spain the germ of a most difficult question, that of succession. In Italy the gravest complications menace the general peace. In Switzerland you are compromising the policy which constitutes our force and security. Oh! I declare it in the face of Europe, you have exhibited a want of foresight wholly without excuse; for I will not consent to doubt your good intention."

This speech received great applause, and caused considerable agitation in the Chamber. M. GUZOT replied to M. THIERS a few days afterwards. His speech was more an accusation of his opponent with revolutionary principles, and an inconsistency with his former opinions, which he quoted and referred to at great length, than an answer to his present arguments and statements. There is a rumor, and we give it only as such, that a Congress of the great European Powers is about to be held in reference to a probable state of affairs which may arise upon the death of LOUIS PHILIPPE. The debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the reform of the Chamber of Deputies has more or less assisted at and promoted these popular demonstrations; and it is expected that great indignation will be expressed in the tribune at the offensive epithets used in the speech of the King, and repeated in the address, respecting them. The occasion will, of course, be used to anticipate to some extent the question of parliamentary and electoral reform. Within the last two years twenty-two councils general have been declared in favor of parliamentary reform, and reform banquets have been held and numerous attended in nearly fifty chief towns in the departments.

The French papers have until lately systematically avoided any allusion to the great increase which has been year by year taking place in the naval and military establishments of France. The "Journal des Debats," however, has at length been roused, in defence of the Administration against the charges of M. THIERS, to make the following declaration: "We have increased the effective strength of our army, enlarged our arsenals, improved our ports, strengthened our fortifications, and increased tenfold the stores for our navy and our army; and this we have done with our ordinary budget." The alarmists on this side the channel say: "For what purpose can this tenfold increase in the French naval stores be intended? France has neither colonies nor commerce to demand such an immense increase in her naval force. It can only be intended for purposes of aggression, and the only Power against which a naval force on such a large scale can be possibly employed is England."

But let us turn to more unobscured peaceable statistics. The table of the prices of corn in different parts of France, which regulates the import duties, has just been published for the last month. It shows an average price of 19 francs 27 centimes the hectolitre of wheat. Last year at the same time it was 29 francs 92 centimes; being a decline of from \$1.97 to \$2.25 the English bushel. The "Moniteur" publishes the following commercial returns of France in 1847. The customs duties diminished 18,841,178 francs as compared with those of 1846, having amounted to only 134,117,730 francs. The number of French vessels which entered the harbors of France in 1847 was 7,836, measuring 916,951 tons. The foreign vessels were.....13,303 do 1,856,388 do.

Total.....21,139 do 2,813,889 do.

The French vessels which cleared out were.....5,425 do 67,341 do.

The foreign vessels were.....7,514 do 85,720 do.

Total.....12,939 do 1,540,061.

As compared with 1846 there was a decrease of 1847 of entries into port of—

French vessels.....348, but an increased tonnage of 37,143

Increase of foreign vessels.....1,190.....216,648

Total increase.....842.....253,791

The number of French vessels sailing from France was diminished 170, and the foreign increased 891. These items alone considered would not lead to a very favorable conclusion as to the state of French commercial navigation other elements, however, must enter into a correct view of the entire subject.

In Spain one thing appears to be certain, that the Queen is now in tolerably good health, since, at a ball at the palace a few nights ago, she danced with great vivacity until five o'clock in the morning; the King retired at twelve o'clock, when his exemplary mother-in-law, CHRISTINA, united the party. ESPARTEO was not among the invited, having offended the all-powerful Queen-mother, by not having allied upon her husband, MEXCO. This ESPARTEO could not have done without a waving of rank, which self-respect forbade him to do. Some people have their misgivings as to the safety of ESPARTEO in Spain, and fancy that he has been duped into returning by those who wish to have him in their power. One thing is very clear; the people of Spain are in a state of positive enthusiasm at his presence. Never was hero or patriot received with more general demonstrations of feeling and delight. The popular joy is evidently ardent, sincere, and earnest. Congratulatory addresses from provincial cities and towns continue to reach him, and many deputations have waited upon him to welcome him back to Spain. The Queen is lavish in her attentions to him, and he is always a welcome visitor at the palace. His exclusion from one or two grand fetes there is attributable entirely to a private pique of the Queen-mother. A proof of the feeling of the Government towards him is afforded by the fact that the colonel of the Queen's regiment was severely reprimanded for not having waited on the general when he passed through St. Sebastian. What is to be the issue? Let us hope for the best. Should it happily turn out, as some, notwithstanding the crimes and treasons with which NARVAEZ has been charged, are inclined to believe, that he is still a Spaniard at heart, and unwilling to see his country sink into a mere province of France, an union between him and ESPARTEO may raise all classes to make common cause with them against the designs of LOUIS PHILIPPE. Such a junction, real and unfeigned, would be every thing for Spain at the present moment. The times are most critical for her. Should the young Queen's health—although now apparently robust—be doubtful as to its durability, while the King of France is rapidly sinking under the pressure of age and infirmity, a crisis may be near at hand; for the dissolution of either would precipitate events in the Peninsula, and bring on a struggle, in which the services of both ESPARTEO and Narvaez would be wanted for their country. The influenza is rapidly decreasing in Madrid, although both General Narvaez and Mr. Bulwer were prevented by it from attending the late balls at the palace.

Mr. CORDEZ was not very complimentary to Portugal when he said that it would be fortunate for England if an earthquake swallowed the whole country. Commercially speaking, she certainly is of very much less importance to us than Cuba, or Chili, or Brazil; she takes but little of our produce, and furnishes small employment to our shipping. Politically speaking, she has no weight or influence; and if she were blotted from the map of Europe, what politicians call the balance of power would scarcely be affected. Yet England keeps a magnificent diplomatic staff at the court of Lisbon, and a superb fleet idling in the waters of the Tagus, to oversee a wretched populace into obedience to their more abject rulers. England has, it is true, treaties with Portugal; she is our "ancient and faithful ally." These treaties ought to be and will be respected; but it is certainly a hard bargain to

the over-taxed people of England to have to maintain the independence of a kingdom who people do not possess any of the rudiments of individual independence, who do not exhibit any of the elements of national greatness, and who never can occupy a prominent place in the family of nations, or fill a subordinate one gracefully and decorously, without a complete remodeling in all their institutions and habits.

A very important item in the present position of Austria is, that the Emperor has sent M. FREYER, one of the chief persons in the financial department, to Russia, to raise a loan of fifty millions of roubles, (about thirty-seven millions of dollars.) But a more important item still is, that Sir RALPH ANDECOMBE, the English Plenipotentiary in Sardinia, has communicated to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Turin a note sent by Lord PALMERSTON to the Court of Vienna, in which it is declared that, in case an Austrian intervention should be attempted in Tuscany, in the Roman States, or in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, it would be considered by England as a declaration of war. We do not think that Lord P. has expressed himself quite so decidedly in his communications to Vienna, but there has been a sufficient approximation to such a tone as probably may make even Prince Metternich pause in his crusade against liberal principles. Austria, not long since, threatened an intervention with Switzerland, but her rulers halted when they saw the formidable and effective army which the Helvetic republic could command; and, moreover, felt that the pulse of Europe did not beat in exact accord with theirs in the business. It was then designed to exact strong measures with Italy, and a proposal was made in the imperial council at Vienna, to remove the Archduke RAINIER from his position as Viceroy and Commander in Venetian Lombardy. He is a humane and reasonable man, and opposed to the policy of Metternich. A party has, however, suddenly sprung up in the council chamber at Vienna, to whom the old system of severity is not palatable, and the propensities of the anti-liberal party have been, for a time at least, overruled. Gentleness, it is said, is to be tried, and even certain concessions are to be made, and certain reforms to be allowed.

This, if it should prove to be true, will be most important, not only for preserving the peace of Italy, but for checking the warlike spirit which has certainly been manifested of late in other countries of Europe. Late advices from the Continent corroborate these statements, and say that Austria has already proposed considerable ameliorations in the government of Venetian Lombardy. The work indeed goes bravely on!

In Italy the principal points of attraction are Naples and Sicily, and there also the cause of rational liberty is making most cheering progress. The King of Naples seems to have been, from the first news of the outbreak in Sicily, that his arbitrary power was checked. This feeling led him, on the 18th of last month, to issue four royal ordinances granting certain political reforms to the people. These decrees, however, although they appeared to include the two great principles of representation and freedom of discussion through the agency of the press, were judged by leading men among the Liberal party to "keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the hope." The people of Palermo tore down the proclamations and trod upon them, and prepared for more determined resistance; all Sicily was in arms, and Naples appeared to be on the point of following the example of her sister kingdom. Such was the state of things on the evening of the 26th ultimo; the King still hesitated, reluctant to give up the last hope of suppressing the revolt by force. He was, however, brought to a sense of his situation by the reports of the commanders of the troops themselves. His Ministers tendered their resignations, which he accepted; and placed in the hands of the Duke de Serra Caprioli, late Ambassador at Paris, and a known Liberal, unlimited power to act in the emergency as he might see fit. A new Cabinet was instantly formed, and announced on the morning of the 27th; all the members of this new Cabinet are distinguished advocates of enlightened reform. The result of their first Cabinet council was to advise the King to proclaim at once a constitution with the most liberal conditions and guarantees. Two days later, on the 29th, a royal ordinance was accordingly issued decreeing a national constitution for the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, founded on the same principles as the French charter of 1830, including two chambers, the royal inviolability, the responsibility of ministers, the liberty of the press, and the national guard. Religious toleration is alone withheld. No religion except the Roman Catholic is to be permitted.

When this decree was posted up, it is impossible, we are told, to imagine the scene that ensued. All business was suspended, tri-colored cockades appeared, as if by magic, in every hat, and hundreds of tri-colored flags waved from windows, carriages, and the crowd. The day was a most delightful one, and to the Neapolitans it appeared as if both the heavens and the earth were pouring forth blessings upon them. The greatest order prevailed amidst the greatest excitement. The King was advised by his ministers to mount his horse and ride through the Strada Toledo; this he did, and was everywhere received with extraordinary good feeling. He has since then driven through the streets with the Queen in a barouche, without a single guard or officer, and has been most enthusiastically received. His reception at the Theatre of San Carlo was of a most extraordinary kind; the interior of the house was one living mass of people; the views were prolonged many minutes after the appearance of the royal party and between the acts. The King is said to have been visibly affected, indeed he had reason to rejoice at having escaped from the dangers which a few days before so terribly beset him. It will take some time for the enthusiasm to wear off; but all, except some trifling excesses of the lazzaroni, who can be restrained by nothing but brute force, such is their ignorance and degradation, has passed on well and quietly so far. Apparently a new era of liberty and prosperity has commenced with Naples.

Sicily is still the scene of bloodshed. The troops have been driven from the forts round Palermo with considerable slaughter. There have as yet been no satisfactory negotiations. The King refuses a separate Chamber for Sicily, but offers that the Chambers shall hold alternate sessions at Naples and Palermo. With these concessions the Sicilians are dissatisfied. We do not know what particular advantages the Sicilians hope to enjoy from the additional privileges which they insist upon, and therefore shall offer no further comment upon the matter, than that continued resistance, after so much has been conceded, may not ultimately tend to their advantage. There is an idea here that the Sicilians would like to set up an independent Government, or, in other words, "disavow the union" with Naples. How far they can carry out this design, how far it is prudent to attempt it at this time, and how long they could maintain their independence, should they achieve it, are questions which they can best answer, but which time can alone determine. There is room for a little apprehension that the subjects of the King of Sardinia will require further concessions from their monarch; there is no doubt but that the King of Sardinia is firmly attached to the cause of rational and salutary reform, but it is by no means so certain that his subjects, now that the stone has been set a rolling, are quite agreed as to the place where it shall stop. Great popular rejoicings took place at Turin on the arrival of the news from Naples; the King has written to Prince Carstorski, to ask him to enter into his service. He proposes to form two Polish regiments. We understand the word Polish here we are rather struck with surprise that a constitutional sovereign should need foreign troops for his home purposes.

From Rome there is nothing new; the Pontiff is steadily advancing in the path of reform with a dignified, cautious, but firm step. The people of Rome have been called upon, through the journals, to forgo this year the expensive mummery of the Carnival, and consecrate the money usually lavished at that holiday in the purchase of a dozen more field pieces for the protection of the city. The hint is likely to be adopted; for, now that the citizens feel themselves to be treated like men and rational beings, they have assumed the tastes and bearing of such, and scorn the grovelling merriment of slaves.

A return has just been published of the population of Italy. The following classification may serve to show, now that Naples has joined the "good cause," the comparative numerical strength of the advocates of absolute and liberal government:

Liberals.....4,879,000

Absolutists.....483,000

Roman States.....2,877,000

Parma & Piacenza.....477,000

Naples and Sicily.....8,566,900

Venetian Lombardy.....7,539,000

Tuscany & Lucca.....1,701,700

Italian Tyrol.....523,608

Monaco.....7,580

Liguria (Austrian).....485,000

San Marino.....7,950

Absolutists.....6,726,608

Liberals.....18,040,130

This is a gratifying classification and result to the lover of progress and of national independence and individual happiness. Should the Austrian Government see its true interests, and act kindly with her Italian dominions, the small States of Modena and Parma would not long resist the general current, and the regeneration of Italy would be complete. May we not hope for such a glorious result?

Switzerland has settled her own disputes without foreign aid or intervention, and has disappointed the vile and mischievous spirit of intrigue that hovered, and, to a certain undefinable extent, still hovers on her borders.

Holland and Belgium, Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria, and Sweden, are so happy as to present nothing new in their political aspect. Nor does the mighty empire of Russia afford matter for a single brief paragraph. The Emperor is said to be slowly recovering from severe sickness.

But, alas! "there is something rotten in the State of Denmark," politically speaking; and it is well if the death of Christian VIII. does not make this evident to Europe and the world. Denmark keeps the gate of the Baltic as much as Turkey does those of the Black Sea, and it is rich in hardy sailors and marines. The Crown has fallen into the possession of a prince closely connected with the Court of St. Petersburg. Denmark is divided into three parts, each having a different origin, claiming different rights, acknowledging different allegiances, and looking to a very different future. First, there is Denmark proper, comprising the islands and Jutland. At the other extremity of the kingdom is Holstein, German in its history, language, inclinations, and even its regime; for it makes part of the German empire, and entitles the King of Denmark to vote in the Diet of Frankfurt. Then there is a province between Holstein and Denmark proper, that of Sleswig, which is half German and half Danish. So that admitting the separation of Holstein from Denmark, there would remain the question, to which shall Sleswig belong? This state of things has worked badly for a long time, and now liberalism has made such progress that both Sleswig and Holstein have spoken freely and acted bravely. So much so that Christian VIII., however liberal, was on the point of abridging, if not abolishing their local privileges and constitutions. Russia is eventually interested in preserving the integrity of Denmark, and will recommend, and probably aid in instituting strong measures, to maintain it. On the other hand, Prussia and the States of the Zoll-Veren are determined in keeping Holstein true in its allegiance to the German empire, of which, with its ports commanding two seas, it is the very important and valuable completion. Thus Denmark threatens to become a bone of contention among the Powers of continental Europe. England is, no doubt, interested in the political fate of the Queen of the Sound; but into whose hands it may fall, there is no fear of that means of communication being closed against her ships and her manufactures. No doubt much of the diplomatic activity which has lately been so busy with Switzerland and Italy will find employment before long on the shores of the Baltic. In the mean time the new King has issued an edict respecting the introduction of a constitution both to the Danish Chancery of State, and to that of Sleswig and Holstein. He proposes that the united Diet of the Kingdom and the Duchies shall assemble alternately in the Kingdom and the Duchies, an equal number of delegates to be appointed by the Kingdom and the Duchies. Other sections of the edict read liberal and fair, and the whole tenor of the instrument seems imbued with the spirit of the age and the political feeling which so generally is active in the world; but how far it may meet the wishes and views, and protect the rights of the various people to whom it is addressed, time must determine.

Your readers must excuse our taking them at once from the north of Europe to the extreme south, whilst we say a few words about Turkey and Greece.

Concerning Turkey, we have to record most gratifying proofs of the improved civilization and taste at least of Constantinople, under the government of its enlightened sovereign, the Sultan ABDUL MEJID. Some ten years ago the highest order of dramatic art known in the country was the Caraguz, or Turkish Punch. A large and elegant theatre is now nearly completed with funds furnished by M. ALERON, the banker of the Porte, and under the superintendence of an English architect, who is attending to the erection of the British Embassy at Constantinople. The house is said to vie in extent and magnificence with any of the great houses in London or Paris. The centre box has been ordered by the Sultan; it will communicate with a saloon, which will be fitted up in a style of oriental splendor. He has ordered his cipher or imperial arms to be placed over the principal entrance. His Majesty is fully aware of the civilizing effects which dramatic representations will have upon his people. The Sultan appears anxious to beautify his capital with architectural monuments. There are at this time in progress of erection a medical college, on an immense scale, and a large military hospital. The barracks of Scutari, which were burnt down some time since are also reconstructing upon a very improved plan. Abdul Mejid thus far has always marked the first day of the year by some signal act. On the 1st of January, 1847, he abolished slave-markets throughout Turkey; an act calculated, by its results, to form an epoch in the history of the country. On the new year's day of 1848 he conferred an annual pension for life of £6,000 on RASHID PACHA, the Grand Vizier; and raised Ali EFFENDI, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the rank of Pacha. These gifts are remarkable, as they are unmistakable evidence of the sympathy which the Sultan feels for the upright principles and liberal feelings of which these illustrious men are the representatives in Turkey.

Of Greece, we are glad to report that tranquillity prevails in every part of the kingdom. The cholera had not diminished, however. All the Greek consuls had resumed their functions in Turkey, and M. MEISSNER was to leave Constantinople in a few days for Athens. The Senate was discussing the budget of 1847. The Chamber of Deputies had adjourned for the Christmas holidays. The Greek Minister had made an apology to Ali Effendi in the Musurus affair, and the Turkish Minister had accepted it, but at the same time informed the Greek Government that unless a treaty of commerce is speedily agreed upon, the Porte will take such steps as it may consider necessary.

Dr. HAMPEX, although he is now, to all intents and purposes, a bishop, will not, at present, occupy a seat in the House of Peers. When the Bishopric of Manchester was created, it was with the express understanding that the number of spiritual peers was not to be increased; the junior Bishop being by this arrangement excluded. Dr. HAMPEX being junior to Dr. LEE, the new Bishop of Manchester, the latter takes precedence in the House of Peers, and Dr. HAMPEX will not attain the dignity of the peerage until another vacancy occurs in the Episcopal Bench. It is true the Queen might exercise her prerogative and call him at once to the upper house; but the ministers have replied to a question put by Mr. URQUHART, in the House of Commons, that they have no intention to advise her Majesty to exercise her prerogative on this occasion. Dr. Hampden will not, it is very probable, have to wait long for this additional dignity.

The Registrar General has just published his report of the deaths, births, &c. of the three months' which terminated with the year 1847. It is a melancholy record of mortality. The following is a statement of the deaths in England and Wales during the respective years:

1843.....163,652

1844.....108,126

1845.....166,226

1846.....192,104

1847.....215,094

The deaths in London during the last quarter of—

1845 were.....11,838

1846 were.....13,321

1847 were.....18,553

The influenza prevailed to a considerable degree in England in 1728, 1733, 1743, 1748, 1762, 1767, 1775, 1782, 1788, 1831, 1833, 1837, and 1847. The atmospheric phenomena in 1733 were very similar to those of 1847.

The Sanitary Committee are proceeding as rapidly as possible with preliminary measures in the metropolis. The Board of Ordnance have commenced the survey.

The great procession of sailors in London, with a petition to the Queen against the repeal of the navigation laws, took place yesterday, and fell very short, in point of extent and importance, of what was expected; instead of 20,000, as previously announced, it did not consist of more than 3,000 men; the whole affair was managed with great order and regularity. The procession was received at the Home Office by Sir GEORGE GREY, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who undertook to deliver the petition to the Queen. The petition is short and highly respectful. It contains the following pas-

age: "If the existing laws protecting the navigation and the shipping interest of this country be repealed, your memorialists will be driven to seek employment in another State, speaking the same language and possessing similar laws, where seamen's interests and seamen's rights are carefully attended to, and where thousands of British seamen have already found protection